

Pierre Leduc Beno Say Bull Matt March

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL
Chamber of Commerce



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de commerce du Québec



**Atlantic Chamber
of Commerce**

Representing business since 1896

**Chambre de commerce
de l'Atlantique**

Représentant les affaires depuis 1896

April 30, 2013

Dear Senator:

Our Chambers of Commerce would like to advise of the importance of passing Bill C-290 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (sport betting)* for our economy.

The Atlantic Chamber of Commerce is an umbrella organization representing 16,000 businesses from the four provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.

With a vast network of over 150 chambers of commerce and 1,200 member businesses, the Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec (FCCQ) represents more than 60,000 businesses and 150,000 businesspeople involved in all sectors of the economy in Québec. The FCCQ is both an association of chambers and a provincial chamber of commerce.

In November 2012, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber sent a letter in partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce in support of Bill C-290 (attached). The Bill has been in the Senate since March 2012.

The lengthy discussion surrounding C-290 in the Senate is somewhat perplexing given that the bill received all-party support in the House of Commons, which highlighted the bill's economic and social benefits which include:

- Offering people a legal alternative to illegal single event betting involving organized crime
- An additional source of provincial revenue to support social programs including healthcare and education
- The creation of additional jobs at provincially-operated/regulated casinos
- An additional value proposition for U.S. citizens deciding where to spend their tourism dollars.

Bill C-290 will delete the specific provisions of the Criminal Code that make it illegal to bet on "any race or fight, or on a single sports event or athletic contest." The provinces, under whose jurisdiction gaming has exclusively resided since 1985, would then have the policy lever to decide whether or not, and under what conditions, wagering on single sporting events will be permitted to occur.

We ask that you carefully consider its potential economic and social benefits. It is our hope that after doing so, you will support it.

Sincerely,

Matt Marchand
President & CEO
Windsor-Essex Regional
Chamber of Commerce

Bruno-Serge Boucher
Vice-président, Soutien
au Réseau et Formation
Fédération des chambres
de commerce du Québec

Pierre Cadieux
President & CEO
Atlantic Chamber of
Commerce